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Meet the first baby

New Year's birth. Born at 6 pounds 9 ounces, Danika is the first child for Calgarians Sarah and Michael Popowich

Danika Shay Popowich took her time entering this world, but when she was finally ready to be born, she emerged as Calgary's first baby of 2013.

"Everything turned out the way it's supposed to, I guess," said Danika's beaming mother, Sarah Popowich, on New Year's Day.

Sarah was initially given a due date of Dec. 27 and went into her first round of labour the morning of Dec. 30, according to proud, first-time grandmother Diana Rawlins.

But Sarah said her labour "spontaneously stopped" and she went home briefly early on Dec. 31 before returning to Foothills Hospital later that morning.

The family said they were initially hoping the birth would happen before the stroke of midnight — for tax purposes.

"If she's born by the end of the year, you still get to claim your baby for the whole year of 2012," Sarah explained.

But Danika waited until just after the clock struck 12. She was officially born at 12:11 a.m., according to the hospital, although Sarah swears it was 12:13 a.m.

Tax-credit disappointments aside, Danika's mom said the Jan. 1 birthday comes with its own rewards.

"She gets to have her name in the paper and go in the baby book," Sarah said. "That's exciting that she'll have that and she'll be able to look at that forever."

Father Michael Popowich said the exact timing of the birth wasn't top of mind for him, as he had other priorities.

"I'm just happy that both mom and baby are healthy," he said. "And I feel blessed. She's a beautiful little thing."

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Labour party

The "official" New Year's Baby is the first born in a Calgary hospital in 2013 whose family agrees to go public.

- Sarah Popowich said Foothills Hospital staff were excited because "all the hospitals have a little competition on who gets to have the official New Year's Baby."

Parents Sarah and Michael Popowich hold their newborn baby girl, Danika Shay Popowich, at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary on New Year's Day. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Grade 6 class won't return after van crash

St. Paul classroom where a minivan smashed through a window and landed on top of three students, killing one of them, will remain empty PAGE 3

Still feeling holidazed? Snap out of it!

No more sleeping in until noon — you have a job to do and bills to pay. Here's how to cope PAGE 19

Middle-earth is yours to explore

A visit to New Zealand is a must for any Tolkien devotee. We list the best of Hobbit and Lord of the Rings-themed travel destinations PAGE 14

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Racette Junior High

Room where girl died will stay empty, say school officials

The Alberta classroom where a minivan smashed through a window and landed on top of three students, killing one of them, will remain empty.

Glen Brodziak, superintendent of St. Paul Education, said most students from Racette Junior High, where the crash occurred, have chosen to return to the school in January.

But some students, including all of those who were in the Grade 6 French classroom, don't want to go back. They will be allowed to finish the year elsewhere.

"We fully support that and recognize that it may not be in their best interest to return," Brodziak said. "Some families are still dealing with some very real things that are concerning for them."

Brodziak said he's not sure if the two injured students are well enough to return to classes.

One thing is certain — the classroom hit by the van will be closed for good.

"We just felt it was the best decision ... out of respect."

The return of students at Racette is short-term. They were already there temporarily so $8 million in renovations could be done to their original school. The work is expected to be completed in the spring.

Witnesses have said the van was speeding down a back alley on Oct. 25 before it crossed onto the school grounds, smashed through a fence and crashed into the lower-level classroom.

Three girls were pinned under the vehicle and had to be airlifted to hospital. One of them, 11-year-old Megan Wolitski, died the next day.

The driver of the van, Richard Benson, faces several charges, including criminal negligence causing death. Relatives have said he has a history of seizures and think he was having an attack at the time of the crash.

Brodziak said the building is now structurally safe.

"The biggest thing is, no matter how you're impacted or affected, you need to move forward," said Brodziak.

"It's almost like we need to reclaim our lives." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Northern Alberta. Falling concrete halts traffic on busy highway

Police in northern Alberta believe a hit-and-run semi was responsible for damaging an overpass on Highway 63. They say the damage to the Hospital Street overpass in Fort McMurray has compromised its structural integrity and both lanes underneath the overpass have been closed.

RCMP say one of the lanes is expected to be open Tuesday night, while three of the four lanes over the bridge have been reopened. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Damaged overpass on Highway 63. RCMP/CONTRIBUTED

New Year's Eve. Revellers celebrated with 'dignity and respect,' say police

Calgarians rang in the new year with no major problems, according to the Calgary Police Service.

Duty Insp. Darren Leggatt said nothing out of the ordinary occurred overnight and the police activity was typical for a busy weekend night, as Calgary revellers played it pretty safe New Year's Eve.

"It was another example that the fine people of Calgary showed they know how to have a good time," said Leggatt.

"But they do it, by and large, with dignity and respect for others."

The Calgary Police did not have statistics on the number of calls responded to on New Year's Eve available Sunday afternoon.

DARREN KRAUSE/METRO

Frustrating New Year's for those needing cabs

Safe ride home. Calgarians report sleeping on friends' floors or not going out due to the lack of taxis

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Ringing in the new year was a lot easier than ringing up a taxi for many Calgary revellers.

"We called over 50 times for a taxi last night," said Bhaveek Makan, who tried in vain to get a taxi to take him home from Flames Central early on New Year's Day.

"Eventually we just had to call someone from the family to pick us up at 4 a.m."

Makan said he still enjoys New Year's Eve in Calgary but finds the taxi service frustrating compared to other cities where he has celebrated, including Toronto, Cancun and his hometown of Durban, South Africa.

Rajiv Kapil, president of the Calgary Cab Drivers Association, said many Calgarians who did find New Year's taxis had to wait between one and three hours.

"Every year it is worse than the previous year," he said.

Kapil said Calgary needs at least 300 more taxis on the road to meet the current demand and suggested opening up the licensing system to any prospective cab drivers.

"There should be no ceiling on the number of licences in the city," he said.

Taxis continue to be in short supply in Calgary, especially on busy nights like New Year's Eve. METRO FILE

Twitter on NYE taxis

- **@justjayin:** Only took 94 times to get through. #yycprobs #taxi #cab #fml
- **@sandraklis:** Wow trying to get a taxi, called 7 companies, 5 no answer, 1 voicemail and 1 not in service, awesome Calgary #yyc #taxi
- **@1002things:** Hopefully in 2013 the @cityofcalgary will consider providing more cab licenses and running @calgarytransit until bars close. #yyc

New Year's Day

Man found shot, killed in Red Deer

Red Deer RCMP are dealing with what will likely be the province's first murder of 2013 after a man was found dead early Tuesday morning.

RCMP responded to a complaint of a disturbance in Red Deer around 5:30 a.m. New Year's Day. Upon arrival at the scene, police found the body of a male in his late teens or early 20s.

Police allege the victim was shot and later succumbed to his injuries, though it's expected the medical examiner will provide further details upon completion of an autopsy.

The RCMP Major Crimes Unit and the Red Deer RCMP are investigating. METRO

Bow River

Man rescued after chilling fall, getting stranded on ice shelf

Calgary firefighters rescued a 40-year-old man from the Bow River Tuesday after he was stranded on an ice shelf.

Fire rescue crews were called out to 450 Fifth Ave. S.E. shortly after 11:30 a.m. Tuesday after reports that a man was stranded on an ice shelf near the bridge after having fallen into the water.

The man was transported to shore and handed over to EMS for treatment and transport to hospital. METRO

Direct Energy

Gas price relief in store for January

Albertans who do not have a contract for natural gas will see their rate go down in January.

Direct Energy Regulated Services says customers living in and north of Red Deer will pay $2.81 per gigajoule for natural gas this month, compared to $3.58 in December.

For those living south of Red Deer, the rate drops to $2.91 per gigajoule, from $3.54 in December.

Direct Energy says the average residential gas bill for January based on 20 gigajoules of consumption would be approximately $135 in the north, and $113 in the south. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Age test to decide if suspected rapist can face murder charge

India. Prosecutors seek death penalty for five other suspects held in rape and murder case

A bone test is being conducted to confirm the age of a young suspect in custody in the fatal assault and gang-rape of a woman on a bus in India's capital, while prosecutors will seek the death penalty for five other men arrested with him, police said Tuesday.

The six will be formally charged Thursday on accusations that they kidnapped, gang-raped and murdered the 23-year-old woman in New Delhi on Dec. 16, a police spokesman said.

Outraged Indians have been demanding the death penalty for the six men, holding demonstrations almost every day. Murder is punishable by death and rape by life imprisonment. But those below 18 years of age cannot be prosecuted for murder.

Another officer said a bone test is being conducted to determine if one suspect is indeed a juvenile. If the test determines he is 18 years or older he will be treated as an adult, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Too often ignored

Activists hope the assault will shatter taboos and make authorities take such cases more seriously.

- Police often refuse to hear complaints and even accuse victims of inviting male attention.
- Families also dissuade victims from coming forward in the belief that it will ruin their reputations.

The gang-rape and killing of a student has set off an impassioned debate about what India needs to do to prevent another tragedy. DAR YASIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police ID some victims in B.C.-bound bus crash

The crash site near Deadman Pass. OREGON STATE POLICE HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigators in Oregon are trying to piece together the final moments before a Vancouver-bound tour bus carrying 48 people careened down a steep hillside, ejecting some passengers and killing nine.

Police said Monday they weren't sure how fast the bus was travelling on a partly icy highway in a rural mountain pass east of Pendleton, Ore.

Oregon State Police identified one of the victims as a 57-year-old Washington man. Authorities said Dale William Osborn was killed in Sunday's crash and his wife, Sue Osborn, remained hospitalized.

His daughter, Jennifer Sherman, said she was told her father was hit in the head by a rock while her mother was thrown into a river bed.

A list of injured released by police named seven Canadian residents, including the driver, identified as 54-year-old Haeng Kyu Hwang of Vancouver.

State Police Lt. Gregg Hastings said it could take a month or more to determine whether the driver will face any charges.

Police said they were working with the Korean Consulate to identify other victims. They confirmed 39 people were transported for treatment of injuries and at least 14 of them remained in hospital.

The bus was travelling westbound in the left lane when it hit a concrete barrier, veered across both westbound lanes and went through the guardrail before plunging about 60 metres down the embankment, Hastings said. The National Transportation Safety Board said the bus rolled at least once.

"Some mothers screamed to find their son or daughter," said Jaemin Seo, a 23-year-old Korean student studying in Vancouver.

Seo said he was awakened by screaming and was ejected from a broken window as the bus careened down the hill. He suffered a broken ankle and a gash in his arm.

The crash occurred near a spot called Deadman Pass, at the top of a steep, 11-kilometre descent from the Blue Mountains. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Secretary of State

Clinton on blood thinners for clot

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continues to recover in a New York hospital where she's being treated for a blood clot in her head.

Her doctors say blood thinners are being used to dissolve the clot and they are confident she will make a full recovery. Clinton didn't suffer a stroke or neurological damage from the clot that formed after she suffered a concussion at her home in mid-December, doctors said in a statement Monday.

Clinton had returned to the U.S. from a trip to Europe, then fell ill with a stomach virus in early December that left her severely dehydrated. She fainted, fell and suffered a concussion later that month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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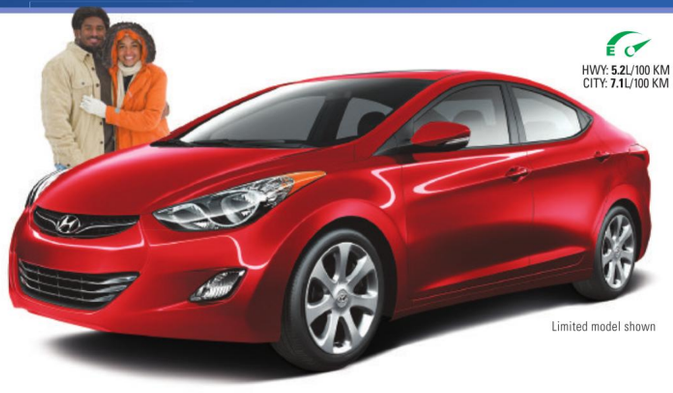

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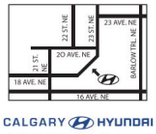

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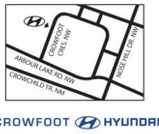

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Aid workers gunned down in van shooting

Pakistan. Islamic militants oppose anti-polio vaccine, alleging it's intended to sterilize Muslim kids

A Pakistani driver who survived an attack on a van that was targeted by gunmen in Swabi, lies at the Lady Reading Hospital after being admitted for treatment, in Peshawar, Pakistan, on Tuesday. Gunmen killed five female teachers and two other people on Tuesday in the ambush. MOHAMMAD SAJJAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunmen on motorcycles sprayed a van carrying employees from a community centre with bullets Tuesday, killing five female teachers and two aid workers, but sparing a child they took out of the vehicle before opening fire.

The director of the group that the seven worked for says he suspects it may have been the latest in a series of attacks targeting anti-polio efforts in Pakistan. Some militants oppose the vaccination campaigns, accusing health workers of acting as spies for the U.S. and alleging the vaccine is intended to make Muslim children sterile.

Last month, nine people working on an anti-polio vaccination campaign were shot and killed. Four of those shootings were in the northwest where Tuesday's attack took place. The attack was another reminder of the risks to women educators and aid workers from Islamic militants who oppose their work. It was in the same conservative province where militants shot and seriously wounded 15-year-old Malala Yousufzai, an outspoken young activist for girls' education, in October.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest shootings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northern West Bank.

Attempt to nab Jihadists sets off hours of violence

Palestinians react to tear gas shot by Israeli soldiers on Tuesday. NASSER ISHTAYEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An arrest raid by undercover Israeli soldiers disguised as vegetable vendors ignited rare clashes in the northern West Bank on Tuesday, residents said, leaving at least eight Palestinians wounded.

Israeli army raids into Palestinian areas to seize activists and militants are fairly common. The raids are normally co-ordinated with Palestinian security forces, and suspects are usually apprehended without violence.

The clashes began early Tuesday after Israeli forces disguised as merchants in a vegetable truck arrested one man. Regular army forces then entered the town, prompting youths to hurl rocks to try to prevent more arrests.

Israeli forces fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition as youths set tires and bins on fire to block the passage of military vehicles. In several hours of clashes, dozens of masked youths hid behind makeshift barriers, hurling rocks and firebombs at soldiers.

Faris Bisharat, a resident of Tamoun, said 10 men were wounded, some by live fire. Bisharat said the wanted men belong to Islamic Jihad, a violent group sworn to Israel's destruction. It wasn't clear how many men Israeli forces sought to arrest. There were no immediate details on how seriously the eight were hurt.

The Israeli military said it arrested a "terrorist affiliated with the Islamic Jihad terror group." It said two soldiers were injured during the raid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Stampede after fireworks kills 61

New Year's tragedy. Most of those killed in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, were children and teens

A crowd stampeded after leaving a New Year's Eve fireworks show early Tuesday in Ivory Coast's main city, killing 61 people — many of them children and teenagers — and injuring more than 200, rescue workers said.

Thousands had gathered at the Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium in Abidjan's Plateau district to see the fireworks. It was only the second New Year's Eve fireworks display since peace returned to this West African nation after a bloody upheaval over presidential elections put the nation on the brink of civil war and turned this city into a battle zone.

With 2013 showing greater promise, people were in the mood to celebrate on New Year's Eve. Families brought children and they watched the rockets burst in the nighttime sky. But only an hour into the new year, as the crowds poured onto the Boulevard de la Republic after the show, something caused a stampede, said Col. Issa Sako of the fire department rescue team. How so many deaths occurred on the broad boulevard and how the tragedy started is likely to be the subject of an investigation.

Many of the younger ones in the crowd went down, trampled underfoot. Most of those killed were between eight and 15 years old.

Missing children

"I have just seen all the bodies, but I cannot find my son.... I don't know what to do."

Mamadou Sanogo, who was searching for his nine-year-old son, Sayed, at the morgue

"The flood of people leaving the stadium became a stampede which led to the deaths of more than 60 and injured more than 200," Sako told Ivory Coast state TV.

Desperate parents went to the city morgue, the hospital and the stadium to try to find missing children.

State TV showed a woman sobbing in the back of an ambulance; another was bent over on the side of the street, apparently in pain; and another, barely conscious and wearing only a bra on her upper body, was hoisted by rescuers. There were also scenes of small children being treated in a hospital. One boy grimaced in pain and a girl with coloured braids in her hair lay under a blanket with one hand bandaged. The death toll could rise, officials said.

The government organized the fireworks to celebrate Ivory Coast's peace, after several months of political violence in early 2011 following disputed elections. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Ivory Coast soldier stands next to the belongings of people involved in a deadly stampede in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. At least 61 people were killed following a New Year's Eve fireworks display. EMANUEL EKRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Executive pay. Top CEOs in Canada earn average of $7.7M, research shows

By the end of the lunch hour on Jan. 2, the highest paid chief executive officers in Canada will have earned as much as the average Canadian makes all year, a new survey of CEO pay shows.

The top 100 CEOs in Canada earned $7.7 million on average in 2011, the latest data collected by an Ottawa-based think-tank found.

In comparison, the average industrial wage was $45,488, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives notes.

This is the seventh year the policy group has prepared a database of executive pay based on publicly available documents.

It began doing so in 2005 to help focus public debate on the growing gap between rich and poor, said Hugh Mackenzie, an economist and research associate with the think-tank.

Total executive compensation includes base salary, bonus, stocks and stock options, and the value of things like pension and dental plans, use of a corporate jet and other benefits.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leaders of the pack

Frank Stronach, honorary chair of Magna International Inc.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

- Frank Stronach, honorary chair of Magna International Inc., led the CEO pay parade, earning $40 million in 2011.
- Michael Pearson, head of Montreal-based Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc., came in second with a pay packet of $36.3 million, most of it in shares. In third place was Robert Quartermain, head of Vancouver-based gold exploration firm Pretium Resources Inc., at $16.9 million.

Fiscal cliff deal passes in late-night Congress vote

Washington, D.C. Rare New Year's Day session ends successfully after Senate and House OK compromise bill

Past its own New Year's deadline, a weary Congress sent U.S. President Barack Obama legislation to avoid a national fiscal cliff of middle-class tax increases and spending cuts late Tuesday night in the culmination of a struggle that strained America's divided government to the limit.

The bill's passage on a bipartisan 257-167 vote in the House sealed a hard-won political triumph for the president less than two months after he secured re-election while calling for higher taxes on the wealthy.

Moments later, Obama strode into the White House briefing room and declared, "Thanks to the votes of Republicans and Democrats in Congress, I will sign a law that raises taxes on the wealthiest two per cent of Americans while preventing tax hikes that could have sent the economy back into recession."

He spoke with Vice-President Joe Biden at his side, a recognition of the former senator's role as the lead Democratic negotiator in final compromise talks with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

In addition to neutralizing middle-class tax increases and spending cuts taking effect with the new year, the legislation will raise tax rates on incomes over $400,000 for individuals and $450,000 for couples. That was higher than the thresholds of $200,000 and $250,000 that Obama campaigned for. But remarkably, in a party that swore off tax increases two decades ago, dozens of Republicans supported the bill at both ends of the Capitol.

Supporters of the bill in both parties expressed regret that it was narrowly drawn, and fell far short of a sweeping plan that combined tax changes and spending cuts to reduce federal deficits. That proved to be a step too far in the two months since Obama called congressional leaders to the White House for a post-election stab at compromise.

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Sen. John Barrasso, left, R-Wyo., talks with Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, holding up his watch, after a vote on the fiscal cliff Tuesday on Capitol Hill. The Senate and House passed legislation early New Year's Day to neutralize a fiscal cliff combination of across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts that kicked in at midnight. ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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YOLO, SO IT'S TIME TO RETIRE THESE CLICHÉS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

How many times over the past year have you heard the term "double down"?

If you answered, "Too many," you probably feel much the same way about other misused and abused words and phrases of 2012, including, but not restricted to: Fiscal cliff, trending, passion, spoiler alert, bucket list, superfood and the now unavoidable YOLO (you only live once).

These and others turned up on this year's Lake Superior State University's 2013 List of Banned Words. When you're only a minor seat of higher learning in the snowbelt — and not Harvard — you need to come up with a shtick to get noticed.

Back in 1975, some PR genius at LSSU came up with the idea of an annual list of words that need to be banned. Every year, the university publishes a selection of words and phrases compiled from the submissions of grumpy wordsmiths across North America, and every year, the news services cover it as if it's actually news. Of course, "wordsmith" made the list one year, but, like most of the other words on the list, people just keep on using them … until they don't.

An aptitude for platitudes

It's like you belong to a club, and the only requirement for membership is that you have to use the trendy word before your mother texts it to her BFF.

The list is more important now than ever as the alarming proliferation of bloggers who feed off other bloggers has led to the near-complete eradication of original thought, as everyone doubles down on the trending slang.

It's like you belong to a club, and the only requirement for membership is that you have to use the trendy word before your mother texts it to her BFF (previously banned abbreviation for best friend forever). If you continue to use it after that, you earn the scorn of the haters, but I'm sure everyone else thinks you're terribly trending.

The problem with "trending," according to its nominators, is that it's not up to the task: Trending which way? Up? Down? Out?

The problem with the fiscal cliff is obvious. Talk about a lazy reference to the worst financial crisis of the century to date. But instead of working hard to understand it, all of us lemmings prefer to roll it up and package it in a neat phrase that we can take with us as we go over it.

"Double down" is particularly odious. It allows you to pretend you're a real riverboat gambler, comfortable with high-risk blackjack strategies, when you don't know jack about doubling down or hitting me up or whatever.

One of my faves this year is "passion," as in "That's my passion," justifying some inane or inherently dangerous practice you're currently enthusiastic about. "Passion" goes well with "fruit" and "Easter," but otherwise should be avoided as overkill.

Just because YOLO doesn't mean you should give in to your passion for clichés.

Just sayin'.

Oh yeah? Trend this: Psy, left, performs in Times Square during New Year's Eve celebrations in New York City. The South Korean rapper was third in Google's 12th-annual ranking of trending searches for 2012.

CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow on the Mediterranean

ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Distinct society

From Russia with love of culture

The children of immigrants from the former Soviet Union attend a ballet class in Lod, central Israel. The Soviet state crumbled 20 years ago, and in the aftermath, more than one million of its citizens took advantage of Jewish roots to emigrate to Israel. Some prominent ballet dancers were among them, forming ballet schools and continuing a dance culture highly regarded in their mother country.

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Growing influence

3rd

Israel has the world's third-largest Russian-speaking community outside of the former Soviet Union, after the U.S. and Germany. Today, Russian-speaking émigrés and their children occupy virtually every corner of Israeli society, from academia and technology to the military and politics. Every fourth employee in Israel's flourishing high-tech industry is a Russian-speaking immigrant, as is every other engineer. The world's second-ranked chess master, Belarus-born Boris Gelfand, lives in Israel, and about one-quarter of Israel's Olympic coaches grew up in the former Soviet Union.

Kosher clash

ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An employee of the Mizra pork-processing plant poses with a pig's head in a refrigerated warehouse in Kibbutz Mizra, northern Israel. The Russian immigrant community has increased demand for pork in the country, a non-kosher food rarely eaten by Israeli Jews.

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Old country and new

Russian power on the rise

By virtue of their sheer numbers in a country of eight million people, the Russian population has transformed Israel. In parts of the country, it's hard to find a single Hebrew sign in a sea of Cyrillic. Shopkeepers address customers in Russian and stores are amply stocked with red caviar and vodka. Russian pop beats thump at bars, and in some homes, people are as likely to be hunched over a chessboard as they are a computer keyboard.

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Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How long could you survive in your house if there was a severe natural disaster?

Twitter

@whogivesaknit: Hmmm.. To try and drive back to #yyc tomorrow or not. Apparently the wind/snow is crazy from Moose Jaw to Swift Current... Ergh.

@dave_mac609 : Just found out there's an IHOP that just opened in Calgary. I know where I'll be going for breakfast before my break is over.

@Jwishapon : Vegas, baby.

@byondpossession: Everyone I know that bused downtown to work from SW hates the train ... Takes them longer then bus

@doncommando: Desperately need a detox when I get back to #yyc #fatty

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DVD review

Looper

Director. Rian Johnson

Stars. Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emily Blunt, Bruce Willis

Looper is a real head flip of a time trip, definitely not your usual ray gun routine, which is why it was chosen as the gala opener for this year's TIFF.

Skillfully bending genres since he first smashed with Brick in 2005, Rian Johnson puts that film's star, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, into an identity crisis sci-fi thriller set in the Kansas of 2044.

JGL plays Joe, a "looper" (hit man) working for innovative mobsters from the year 2074, who use a time machine to send their victims back three decades for untraceable bullets and burning.

Fast cash is just a shot away for ice-cool Joe and his blunderbuss – until a new crime kingpin decides to "close the loop" and the mirror threatens.

Bruce Willis and Emily Blunt co-star in this future shocker that is smarter than most— at least until the novelty wears thin.

Extras include deleted scenes, making-of featurettes and feature commentary by Rian Johnson, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Emily Blunt.

PETER HOWELL

Horror icon Leatherface returns to hunt unsuspecting teenagers in the latest installment of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre series, Texas Chainsaw 3D. HANDOUT

Carving out a killer franchise — in 3D

Horror. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre's Leatherface has been terrifying audiences everywhere for more than 30 years

Two far-flung events inspired director Tobe Hooper to write The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, the down-and-dirty 1974 indie film that spawned sequels, prequels and this weekend's splashy 3D remake — the imaginatively titled Texas Chainsaw 3D.

In November 1957, police raided the home of Plainfield, Wis., farmer Ed Gein, uncovering gruesome evidence that would lead to charges of murder and body snatching.

After two trials, he spent the rest of his life in a mental facility, but his story would go on to inspire three characters–Norman Bates from Psycho, Buffalo Bill from The Silence of the Lambs and one other that would serve as the basis for six films.

Gunnar Hansen, who played Leatherface in Texas Chainsaw Massacre, says Hooper and co-writer Kim Henkel based the character of the hooded chainsaw killer on Gein.

"When they set out to write this movie," he said, "they decided to have a family of killers who had some of the characteristics of Gein: the skin masks, the furniture made from bones, the possibility of cannibalism."

Hooper adds the story was also partially inspired by "the massacres and atrocities in the Vietnam War" and a display of chainsaws in the hardware section of a crowded Montgomery Ward's department store.

"The idea popped," he remembered. "I said, 'Ooh, I know how I could get out of this place fast — if I just start one of these things up and make that sound.'"

That nerve-jangling noise — the revving of a chainsaw — has been the soundtrack of terror ever since. The original is an atmospheric gem, a white-knuckle movie that made Leatherface the first icon of modern horror.

The apron-wearing cannibal has appeared in five more films — most of which don't veer too far from the original plot line of unsuspecting kids falling prey to a family of demented, cannibalistic inbreds.

There's The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2, starring Dennis Hopper, Leatherface: TCM III, TCM: The Next Generation (starring the then-unknown Matthew McConaughey and Renée Zellweger), 2003's The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, TCM: The Beginning and the new 3D version.

Leatherface's scares don't always happen on screen, however. At the Kingsway Theatre in Toronto, the flick inspired audience participation when someone dressed in a butcher's outfit ran down the aisle brandishing a real, revving chainsaw.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Our celeb wishes and Twitter dreams for 2013

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Here's some New Year's resolutions we wish the stars would aim for:

• **Katy Perry:** "I will stop dating bad boys with stringy black hair."

• **Lindsay Lohan**: "I will try to make my probation officer's 2013 as painless as possible."

• **Prince Harry:** "I will try to have more fun in 2013."

• **Psy:** "I will not make a 'serious' album. Not yet, at least."

• **Kristin Stewart:** "I will smile."

• **Rihanna:** "I will stop dating Chris Brown once and for all."

Twitter hopes

These stars left Twitter — some for good reasons, some for bad — in 2012. Here's some Twitter accounts we wish would come back in 2013:

@adele
The singer left Twitter after receiving nasty death threats about her newborn son from Twitter trolls. It would be great for her to come back so we can show her that humanity isn't awful.

@KanyeWest
"BE BACK SOON" was the last thing posted on the singer's epic Twitter feed, which gave us such gems as "I just threw some kazoo on this b-tch" and "Sometimes I get emotional over fonts." Wherefore art thou, Kanye?

@CharlieSheen
After he accidentally tweeted his phone number in an attempt to contact Justin Bieber (hahahahahaha), Sheen deleted his Twitter account. Come and remind us what all the fuss was about.

Top 5 pop culture moments of 2012

Entertainment. From 'Hey, sexy lady' to saying goodbye to an icon, Metro looks back at some of the year's biggest moments.

Top 5

1. Whitney Houston dies.
2. Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes divorce.
3. Kristen Stewart cheats on Robert Pattinson.
4. PSY takes over the world with Gangnam Style.
5. The royals are having a baby.

Pop icon Whitney Houston was only 48 years old when she died on Feb. 11. GETTY IMAGES

•"**Whitney Houston**'s death in February was a tragic event that symbolically set the tone for a year where the old guard in soul and R&B music gave way to a younger generation, as hip-hop kids like **Frank Ocean**, **Miguel** and **The Weeknd** basically reinvented the genre in 2012." PAT HEALY

•"I remember going to a party and it's all anyone could talk about. I mean, we all knew she wasn't doing well, but I guess we didn't realize the extent of her fall from grace until it was too late." DOROTHY ROBINSON

•"Our 'Kristen, how could you?' cover is blown-up and hanging on the wall next to my desk. Every day I ask myself the same thing." MEREDITH ENGEL

•"At the risk of giving this any more ink: **Robert Pattinson**'s hair at least deserves to be cheated on in a proper hotel room." MONICA WEYMOUTH

•"I can't believe you would vote for Stewart/Pattinson break up when we don't mention 50 Shades. It's bonkers it's not on this list. But maybe it's not because we are all still wondering how such badly written erotica could take off like it did." DR

•"I just wanted to say that I think my 2012 approach to the Kardashian family has really worked this year. I vowed at the onset of 2012 to not speak the Kardashian name aloud. And look at how you're not seeing them on quite as many magazine covers in the checkout line. They're not even on this list! It's the power of the cosmic unconscious, people! Yes, the one that they call Kim is doing whatever she can to keep her flicker of fame alight — hiring Kanye West to pretend like he's into her and now pregnant with his child — but in 2013 if we all agree not to speak the name of that family, I think we can finally make them go away forever." PH

•"I never thought I'd be someone who thinks of themselves as a 'royal fan' but I really dig Kate and William and I'm excited for them." DR

Psycho for Psy

"When my mother asked me what K-Pop was, I knew this thing was bigger than all of us. Parents are the best barometer."

Heidi Patalano, on Gangnam Style

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The Real Middle-earth

With last month's world premiere of Peter Jackson's The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in New Zealand, a trip to experience Middle-earth is likely on the bucket list for many fans. Below are some of the top New Zealand tourism activities focused on The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.

RUTH ATHERLEY
life@metronews.ca

Hobbiton

Near Matamata, a picturesque town just two and a half hours from Auckland (New Zealand's largest city and the gateway to Middle-earth), visitors can enjoy a guided tour of the Hobbiton movie set.

Hidden in the magical, spectacularly green, rolling hills of the area is Hobbiton, the film set made famous in The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

Along with 37 Hobbit holes, fans can check out the Green Dragon Inn, The Mill and other structures used in the upcoming films. Not only has Hobbiton gained fame as a movie set, it is also a working farm experience, café and conference facility.

It's definitely a must for anyone who wants to truly experience the "Shire" when in New Zealand.

Hobbiton movie set in Matamata. FLICKR: ARBRON

Mountain bike skippers canyon track, Queenstown. FLICKR: TRAILSOURCE.COM

Four-wheel drive safari tour in Queenstown

Any reason to visit Queenstown, on New Zealand's South Island, is a good one, and a four-wheel drive adventure through Middle-earth gives visitors a great reason to go.

The Queenstown area was prominently featured in the filming of The Lord of the Rings trilogy and Nomad Safaris offers two different tours designed specifically for fans.

The guides are definitely one of the highlights of the tour — many were extras in the films. They know, and are happy to share, all of the local gossip about what the stars of the movies did while they were filming in the area.

Wellington

Everyone who goes to Wellington falls in love with the fun, foodie and fashion-focused city that sits at the southern tip of the North Island.

Known to many as "Wellywood" because of its flourishing film industry, fans can experience the ultimate Middle-earth full-day tour with Wellington Rover Tours — where fans can follow in the footsteps of Hobbits, and spend the day learning film secrets. Wellington also boasts the Weta Cave, which screens a behind-the-scenes look at Weta and interviews co-founder Peter Jackson, among others, has a mini-museum with some of the characters and features props and displays from The Lord of the Rings films.

Wellington. FLICKR: ASGW

Regional highlights

Hamilton Waikato

Hobbits have roamed the hills at Hobbiton movie set, near Matamata, where The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies were filmed.

Christchurch Canterbury

The Canterbury region was used for numerous locations for The Lord of the Rings Trilogy and the Mount Cook region has been used again for The Hobbit. Aoraki Mount Cook (3,754 metres) is New Zealand's highest mountain and means cloud piercer.

See for yourself

Air New Zealand (airnewzealand.ca) has direct non-stop flights from Vancouver to Auckland and offers flights from many other North American cities. For more information about New Zealand, please visit: NewZealand.com.

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Can you imagine a better setting than this for the big day? HANDOUT

Dreaming of saying your vows under the Caribbean sun?

Destination wedding.
A few things to keep in mind if you're looking for a stress-free ceremony

LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

A growing number of brides and grooms are heading to tropical climes in the hopes of having memorable nuptials.

Before you book your destination wedding, there are a few things to bear in mind.

The costs can vary widely depending on the time and place you get married.

The proximity and easy flight access into Cuba, Dominican Republic and Mexico's Mayan Riviera tend to mean there are better deals to be found in these locales. If your dates are flexible, consider holding off until the April shoulder season and you will fare much better with accommodation rates.

Look into any special regulations. Many of the popular Caribbean destinations require you to be on the island anywhere from two to five days prior to the ceremony.

Typically, you will also need a special marriage license in the local language that could cost several hundred dollars depending on the island, and you may be required to get a blood test. Both future spouses must present proof of citizenship of their resident country.

Hire a local wedding specialist. Bridezilla or not, it can be hard planning a wedding from afar.

A good planner can be your liaison between all the legal bits that need to happen and finding the best and most reliable vendors, from the florist to the photographer to the caterer. At the very least, look at booking a resort that offers a pre-set wedding package that includes a handful of these elements, such as a justice of the peace, document arrangements and a special location for your ceremony.

Be prepared for bathing suit-clad onlookers. Whether you get married on a resort or at the beach, privacy is something that is hard to guarantee. If you want your ceremony to feel a little more intimate, consider an island like Anguilla, which allows foreigners to get married in local churches.

Consider your guests. If you are hoping loved ones will be coming along to share your big day, the cost of the vacation does matter. Negotiate with your resort or tour operator for a group discount. Also, tell people not to bring gifts, the cost of the trip is enough.

You don't want to be bringing a toaster home on the plane anyway.

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Not your parents' all-inclusive resort

Puerto Vallarta. Get off the resort with a new offering that incorporates adventure and culture into the all-inclusive experience

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
life@metronews.ca

It's that time of year again — after the holiday parties have come and gone, we're left with the bleak prospect of a long, cold winter ahead of us.

It's also that time of year when we dream of escape — to somewhere warmer, preferably with a beach and an ocean. But for some of us, working on a tan gets boring fast. And staying at a resort often means we don't see anything beyond the pool bar.

For those who want some adventure and culture along with their poolside cocktail, Nolitours has come up with a concept to do just that with noliZone (nolizone.nolitours.com), whether you're looking to zip-line through the jungle, take a cooking workshop or even volunteer in an orphanage. And with discounts at local restaurants and bars, you can skip the buffet and enjoy local cuisine, then dance off those calories at the clubs.

Departures with Air Transat

- **Toronto.** Up to two weekly flights until April 29, 2013
- **Vancouver.** Up to two weekly flights until April 27, 2013
- **Calgary.** One weekly flight until April 27, 2013
- **Montreal.** Up to three weekly flights until April 27, 2013

So far, noliZone is offered in Santa Lucia (Cuba), Puerto Plata (Dominican Republic), and Riviera Nayarit and Puerto Vallarta (Mexico). It's not just for couples, there's no single supplement in certain hotels, so it's a great way to meet people if you're travelling solo, and to mix and mingle if you're with a group of friends.

Puerto Vallarta and Riviera Nayarit are noliZone's latest offerings: Puerto Vallarta, with its cobblestone streets and colonial architecture, offers up nightlife, dining and shopping, while its neighbour, Riviera Nayarit, has water sports and outdoor adventures on tap.

Puerto Vallarta offers up nightlife, dining and shopping, along with the beaches, of course. COURTESY OF AIR TRANSAT/NOLITOURS

For foodies

Mexican fiesta: If you're looking for authentic Mexican cuisine, discover regional specialties at this food festival held once a week at either the quaint village of Bucerias in Riviera Nayarit or in the lively Lazaro Cardenas Park in Puerto Vallarta. Here, you can mingle with the locals while sampling crispy pork tacos and shots of tequila to live music and traditional dancing.

Cooking workshops: If you want to bring home a taste of Mexico, learn the basics from a local chef. Start the day by shopping for ingredients at a local market, and then use those ingredients to prepare typical Mexican dishes from guacamole to mole.

For sports enthusiasts

If you're craving an adrenaline rush, try zip-lining at the Canopy Adventure Park, or kayak and snorkel around a group of small volcanic islands at Banderas Bay (or just chill out on a secluded beach hideaway and nature reserve at Las Caletas, only accessible by boat).

For voluntourism

For those looking to give back to the community, noliTours has partnered with Casa Hogar, a local non-profit that works with orphaned and abandoned children in Puerto Vallarta and Bucerias. Spend a day at one of the orphanages, where you can play with the kids, help them with their homework or give staff a helping hand.

Where to stay

The Marival Residences & World Spa Luxury Resort is a four-diamond all-inclusive in Nuevo Vallarta, Riviera Nayarit. Designed as a home away from home, suites offer everything from a fully equipped kitchen to an oversized balcony. Upgrade to a posh penthouse for a private rooftop sundeck and infinity pool overlooking the Pacific. For some R&R after a day of adventure off the resort, sip handcrafted cocktails on the rooftop Insu Sky Lounge or head to the private VIP Beach Club.

Treat yourself

The Melange World Spa at the Marival offers signature treatments from eight cultural traditions, as well as classic spa treatments. Try the Mexico Agave Experience (the native agave plant is used to make tequila), which uses agave, cacao, honey, aloe vera and Mayan mud as part of a body exfoliation, body wrap and facial.

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Broccoli Pasta does double duty as a warming dish and a cash saver

Whenever you have too little time and too few ingredients on hand — or when you've been eating too much meat — a great alternative is some Broccoli Pasta.

It's delicious, healthy, inexpensive and easy to prepare. The recipe, in fact, is a cinch, consisting of just a few ingredients — pasta, chicken broth, Parmigiano-Reggiano, olive oil and a large head of the namesake crucifer.

Another of this recipe's charms is its flexibility. You can swap in vegetable broth for chicken broth, spaghetti for the angel hair pasta, and any other grated hard cheese for the Parmigiano-Reggiano. Sometimes you can even lose the broccoli in favour of roasted cauliflower or Brussels sprouts.

But what makes the dish so popular is its comfort factor. It can be served soupy, so you can slurp the chicken broth along with the strands of pasta. You can also make sure there's some crusty bread within easy reach, which helps to mop up the broth not captured with a spoon.

This dish is so economical it's almost ecological.

Ingredients

- 1 large head broccoli (about 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds)
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- 1 to 2 tsp red pepper flakes, or to taste
- 1 quart low-sodium chicken stock
- 1/2 lb whole-wheat capellini pasta
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

1. Heat oven to 450 F. Position one of the racks in top third of oven.

2. Bring pot of water to a boil.

3. Cut broccoli, including the stems, into 2-inch pieces. Peel any thick stem pieces to remove the thick skin.

4. On rimmed baking sheet, arrange broccoli in single layer. Drizzle with oil then sprinkle with salt to taste and toss well.

Cold Weather Broccoli Pasta

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Place on top oven rack and roast for 10 minutes, or until broccoli is crisp tender and slightly brown at the edges. Transfer the broccoli to a large skillet, add the pepper flakes and the chicken broth, then bring to a boil over medium-high heat.

5. When water in large pot comes to boil, add a hefty pinch of salt and the pasta. Stir and cook 2 minutes, or until the pasta is limp but not quite cooked through. Drain pasta and transfer it to the broccoli pan. Simmer for 2 minutes, or until the pasta is al dente. Stir in the Parmigiano-Reggiano and salt to taste. Ladle into shallow soup bowls and serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON IS THE AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

Drink of the Week

Winter Wind

This drink contains traditional holiday spices and ingredients that remind recipe creator Nishan Nepulongoda of festive seasons.

"The sweetness of cinnamon mixed with fresh lime citrus creates a balanced taste that has an added hint of spice when topped with the ginger beer," says Nepulongoda, a mixologist at Blowfish Restaurant in Toronto.

- 60 ml (2 oz) gin
- 30 ml (1 oz) fresh lime juice
- 30 ml (1 oz) simple syrup
- Pinch ground cinnamon powder
- Ice cubes
- Ginger beer
- Lime slice, for garnish

Shake all ingredients with ice. Pour into a rocks glass with fresh ice. Top up with ginger beer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Pop Penne Pasta Casserole in oven for comfort food fix

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (177 C).

2. Cook pasta according to package directions; drain.

3. Brown meat with onions in large skillet; drain. Stir in Hunt's Diced Tomatoes with their liquid, the tomato paste and water; cook until heated through, stirring occasionally.

4. In large bowl, add pasta, tomato and beef mixture, and 2 cups of cheese; toss to coat.

5. Spray 13-by-9-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Spoon mixture into dish; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 25 minutes, or until casserole is heated through and cheese is melted.

NEWS CANADA/ HUNT'S

Ingredients

- 3 cups dry penne pasta, uncooked
- 1 lb (500 g) lean ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped (1 cup)
- 1 can (398 ml) Hunt's Diced Tomatoes
- 1 can (5.5 fl oz) Hunt's Tomato Paste
- 1/2 cup water
- 3 cups (12 oz) shredded Mozzarella cheese
- Non-stick cooking spray

Are you getting all a-Twitter about social media? Link on the bright side

Success on a screen. The web world is complex, but connecting is key to climbing the job ladder

LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

Getting involved in a LinkedIn group can help you keep up with new developments in your field while simultaneously networking. But don't just be a name in the group — participate in discussions and offer input.
ISTOCK

In this day and age, having an online presence is just as essential to your job search as having an error-free resumé.

However, between LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Google+ it can be difficult to master how to effectively manage your many online lives.

Once you've upped your Facebook privacy settings as high as they can go, it's pretty easy to learn how to navigate the 'book.

However, mediums like LinkedIn and Twitter can be a bit trickier to grasp, especially for students and recent grads who don't already have built-in professional networks.

Here are a few tips for getting started:

Mastering the Twitterverse

• Begin by listening
Use Twitter's search function to find people and feeds which are of interest to you. Spend some time exploring these outlets and looking at how they are utilizing Twitter.

• Maintain your humanity
Keep your tweeting tone natural and in your own voice.

The whole point of Twitter is to show who you are and what interests you.

• Make like a pencil and have a point
Share links to relevant articles and express your own views.

Tweet out information your followers will find valuable rather than which nail polish colour or salad dressing you went with today.

• Tweet regularly
Keep your profile current and tweet on a regular basis. This keeps your online presence up to date and will hold the attention of your followers.

That being said, if you have nothing to say, don't feel you have to post.

• Pay it forward
Retweeting the posts of others builds rapport with your followers, sparks conversation and demonstrates to others that you don't think it's all about you — you can appreciate what others have to say as well.

• Be appreciative
Acknowledge retweets by publicly thanking those who share your posts — unless your every tweet gets tweeted 900 times. Then use some discretion (and probably expect an invitation to appear on The Ellen DeGeneres Show).

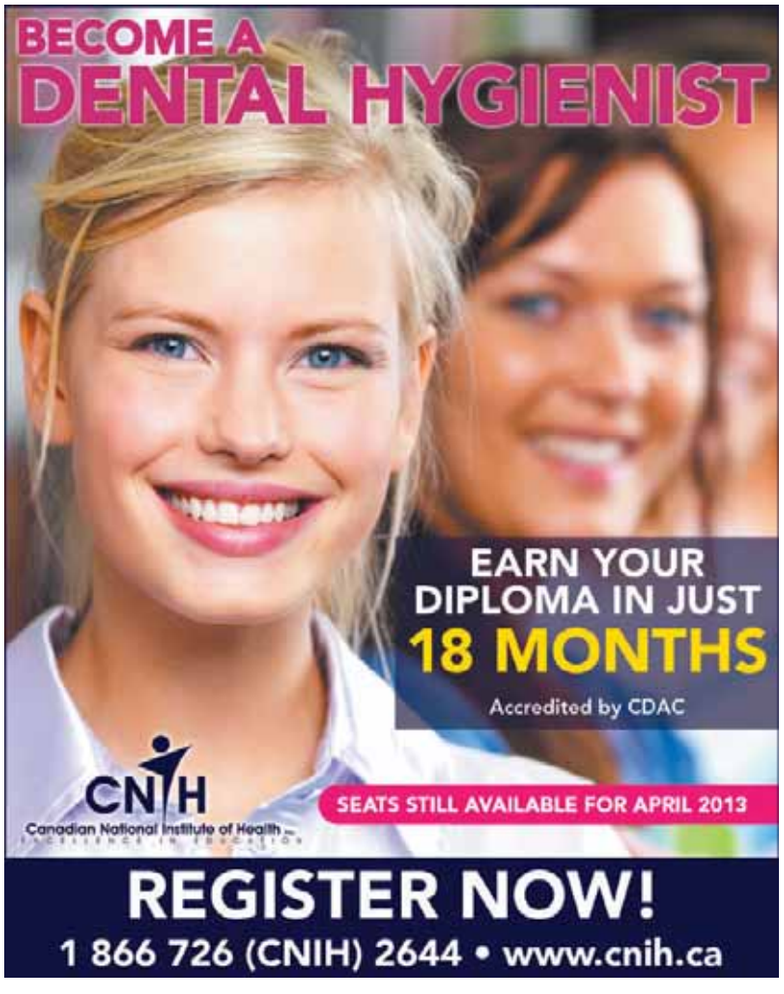
• Keep it simple
You only have 140 characters to make your point, so get right to it. Try using less than the 140 cap in order to make it easier for others to retweet what you have posted.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Online and employable

Click boldly through the land of LinkedIn using these simple tips:

- **A full profile is a fulfilling profile.** Provide as much information as you can, including work history, key responsibilities and educational history. Be specific and highlight key accomplishments so as to give others a clear example of the type of work you're capable of doing.
- **It's all about quality, not quantity.** It's easy to aimlessly connect with people in an effort to build up your number of contacts and appear more "popular." Don't invite strangers to your network and don't be offended when those same strangers ignore your requests. Just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, your network is only as strong as its weakest connection. It's not just how many people you know, but who these people are.



From lovely, lazy holiday to dreary office desktop

Back from your break? Believe it or not, there are ways to tackle this tough transition without tearing your hair out

ISHANI NATH
TalentEgg.ca

By separating the things that can wait for a few days, it will relieve some of your first-day-back workload and stress. ISTOCK

Between frolicking in the frost and sleeping in past noon, long weekends and holidays don't leave much time to think about the office.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end.

The first day back at work after a holiday can be tough. While you were away, the only paperwork you did was rifling through magazines and trashy novels.

Now that you're back, you're faced with hundreds of emails, new projects and deadlines that are creeping up on you.

Many people return to work and try to go from zero-to-productive all at once, but Robert Half executive Christine Lucy says that trying to get caught up on everything right away is not the solution. For students and new hires, this can present a new challenge. Christine says, "Like anything new, you find ways to deal with it with practice."

Making up for time missed is a delicate balancing act, says Christine. You want to get back into work-mode "without stressing yourself out and losing all the benefits of that vacation."

So how do you get up to speed without getting winded?

Here are some tips for students and new grads who are trying to snap back to reality after the holidays.

Get organized

Whether you're leaving for the Bahamas or simply taking a few days off to lounge around at home, planning ahead will ease your post-vacation work week.

"Being planned and being prepared to return to work can make a big difference," says Christine.

Try to get major projects and anything that is time-sensitive out of the way before you head out.

On that first day back in the office, Christine recommends an early start. That way, you'll be able to get to work on projects that need urgent attention and start sorting through your overstuffed inbox — before co-workers start coming around to ask you about your vacation.

Be realistic

You've been gone for a few days, so don't expect to get caught up in a single day. Trying to tackle everything all at once can leave you feeling stressed and overwhelmed, so prioritize what really needs to get done right away.

For instance, rather than starting with your most recent emails and working your way down, sort through them and deal with the most important ones first. "In reality, not everything has to be done right now," says Christine.

Say "thank you"

While you were enjoying your holiday, someone may have been covering for your job. In order to make a smooth transition back to work, make sure you acknowledge and thank them for their assistance. A simple "thank you" will strengthen your work relationships and make people more likely to help you when it comes time for your next holiday.

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Canadian juniors get home cooking in Ufa

World juniors. Team Canada has a two-man cooking crew installed in team's hotel kitchen

There are some nights Nathan MacKinnon can't believe what he sees. And what he eats.

"It's probably the best food I've ever eaten for sure," said the Team Canada forward.

He's not talking about the fare available to the general public in Ufa, Russia — which amounts to a lot of soup, perogies, and mystery-meat-filled-pastries. He's talking about the spread he and his Team Canada teammates are able to eat in their hotel.

In a bid to bring the comforts of home halfway around the world, Team Canada has brought Calgary restaurateur Jeff Hanna and chef Andrew Gass to the world junior hockey championship to feed the players.

"They've mixed it up every day. It's awesome to have them over here," said MacKinnon. "No mystery meats.

"We're really lucky to have them."

The idea started a few years ago when the tournament was in Sweden. It was repeated when the tournament was in the Czech Republic. Now Gass and Hanna are integral parts of Hockey Canada's behind-the-scenes crew.

"It's about nutrition. It's about flavourful food," says Hanna. "It's stuff that's recognizable for them. Making them feel like yes, they're on the other side of the world, and we're doing our best we possibly can with every ingredient, to make it feel like: 'Wow, I'm playing in my rink in Toronto or Calgary.'

"The guys polished off 72 racks of ribs, to give you an example of the quantity of food these guys can eat."

They are hungry, growing teenagers, after all.

"Even (Hockey Canada official) Scott Salmond came up to me and said: 'Geez, we're here to win gold medal for our country. This isn't an eating contest,'" said Hanna.

Getting the right ingredients is a bit of a challenge. Hanna and Gass — who have taken over the kitchen in the Team Canada hotel — arrived three days early to start stocking up. They rented army vehicles.

When Hanna and Gass landed in Ufa, they were curious and ate what the locals eat. They weren't impressed.

"Probably one of the scariest scenarios ever," said Gass. "We had a meal and it was scary. We had this deep-fried broccoli and a sausage coil that was grilled but didn't taste like meat that was decent." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calgary restaurateur Jeff Hanna, left, and chef Andrew Gass take in a Team Canada game in Ufa, Russia. They leave in the second period to make dinner in the team hotel for the team's ravenous teenagers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"I have a couple of buddies on the U.S. team and they say they've had a couple of questionable meals."

Canadian junior forward Nathan MacKinnon, who, along with his teammates, is eating well thanks to the cooking of Calgary restaurateur Jeff Hanna and chef Andrew Gass.

Junior sampler

Team Canada's players are enjoying some good home cooking.

- They had turkey for Christmas dinner. They've eaten lasagna and chicken tetrazzini. Ribs were a big hit.
- For dessert, it's home-baked chocolate chip cookies, oatmeal cookies and sometimes a chocolate-blueberry bread pudding. And lots of fresh fruit.

Penn State scandal

Governor to file federal lawsuit against NCAA over sanctions

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett said Tuesday he plans to sue the NCAA in federal court over stiff sanctions imposed against Penn State University in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sexual-abuse scandal.

The Republican governor scheduled a Wednesday news conference on the Penn State campus in State College to announce the antitrust filing in U.S. District Court in Harrisburg, Pa.

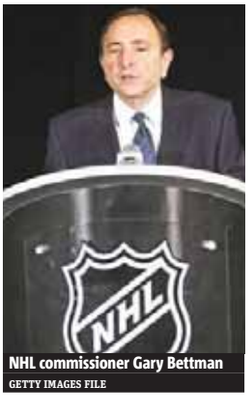
The sanctions, which were agreed to by the university in July, included a $60-million fine that would be used nationally to finance child-abuse prevention grants. The sanctions also included a four-year bowl game ban for the university's marquee football program, reduced football scholarships and the forfeiture of 112 wins, but didn't include a suspension of the football program, the so-called death penalty.

The governor's office announced the news conference late Tuesday afternoon. His spokesman did not respond to repeated calls and emails seeking to confirm a Sports Illustrated story that cited anonymous sources saying a lawsuit was imminent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett
GETTY IMAGES FILE

NHL tables counter-proposal to union



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman
GETTY IMAGES FILE

With the NHL and Players' Association trading proposals back and forth ahead of a deadline to save the season, hope is on the rise that an agreement to return the game to the ice is getting close.

What happens Wednesday will likely determine if that ends up being the case.

Armed with a new comprehensive offer from the league — presented on Tuesday night after a 24-hour period that saw top NHL executives work through New Year's Eve — the union is expected to provide a response at some point during the day. It must also decide whether it will let a self-imposed deadline pass to file a "disclaimer of interest," which would throw negotiations into uncertainty.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said the league isn't focused on that possibility and noted that the NHL has been making some movement on the key issues.

"In our response, there were certain things that the players' association asked for that we agreed to, there were some things that we moved in their direction and there were other things that we said no," Bettman said. "But that's part of the process."

The talks are being held with an eye on preserving at least a 48-game schedule — the same number that was played following the 1994-95 lockout. An agreement would need to be in place by Jan. 11 for that to happen.

For now, the more important deadline passes just before midnight on Wednesday when the NHLPA's executive board must decide if it wants to keep being represented by the union.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

108

There are signs the 108-day lockout is nearing its end. Players who have spent time in Europe are starting to trickle back to North America, including Bruins forward Tyler Seguin and Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, who wrote on Twitter that "hopefully I'm coming back for the right reason."

Back at the table

The sides have now exchanged three different proposals over the last five days — easily the most aggressive stretch of bargaining during negotiations that have stretched over six months.

NFL's top dogs hope to buck the bye-week jinx

Odds on upset. No. 1 seed Broncos, Falcons hope to stay sharp while wild cards look to build on momentum

The Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons, who tied for the NFL's best record at 13-3, are well aware of one of the league's biggest truisms: More often than not, the regular season is for suckers.

Over the past decade, just two of the 13 teams that had the best regular-season record — or tied for the best mark — went on to win the Super Bowl: the '02 Buccaneers and the '03 Patriots.

The last eight teams to enter the playoffs with the best record bowed out before they could put their fingerprints on the Lombardi Trophy and revel in a rain of confetti.

Both the Broncos and Falcons are promising to practise like champions this week and not allow rest and relaxation to turn into rust and ruin.

In the last seven seasons, three No. 6 seeds and a No. 4 seed ended up winning it all, giving hope to the likes of the Ravens, Redskins, Bengals and Vikings in this year's playoff pool.

A year ago, the Green Bay Packers rested their regulars in the season finale and they lost their edge, becoming the first 15-1 team to lose its first playoff game — to a New York Giants team that was 7-7 in mid-December and went on to win it all.

"That's kind of what it was for us when I was in Indy," Broncos wide receiver Brandon Stokley said of the '05 Colts, who went 14-2 but lost to Pittsburgh in the divisional round. "We kind of rested the last week, then we had a bye. It's too much. So, I like just grinding every week, just playing football."

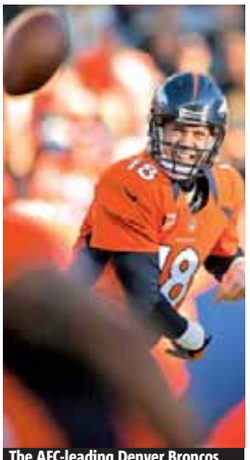
That's exactly what Peyton Manning's new team did, securing the AFC's top seed on Sunday with its 11th straight win.

Along with the Falcons, Patriots and 49ers, the Broncos get a break this week, one that can prove a pitfall as much as a profit.

While the Broncos stormed into the playoffs, the Falcons, who already had the NFC's top seed secured, didn't gain any momentum on Sunday, losing to Tampa Bay.

"Before this game was played, we were the No. 1 seed in the playoffs. At the end of the game, nothing has changed," Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez reasoned. "We're a very good team. We'll just use this as a wake-up call."

Broncos coach John Fox is using the bye week to stay sharp, calling for short, crisp practices on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and a mandatory weightlifting session Saturday, mainly to keep the team "focused." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The AFC-leading Denver Broncos and Peyton Manning are planning to stay sharp during their weekend off. DUSTIN BRADFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Wild-card matchups

A look at the opening round of the NFL playoffs.

- **Saturday.** AFC: Cincinnati at Houston; NFC: Minnesota at Green Bay.
- **Sunday.** AFC: Indianapolis at Baltimore; NFC: Seattle at Washington.

College football

Stingy defence lifts Stanford to Rose Bowl win

Stepfan Taylor rushed for 89 yards and an early touchdown, Kevin Hogan passed for 123 yards and No. 8 Stanford's dominant defence shut out Wisconsin in the second half of a 20-14 victory in the 99th Rose Bowl on Tuesday night.

The Badgers had a chance to win on their final possession. Melvin Gordon, Montee Ball and James White took turns running the ball before Curt Phillips hit Kenzel Doe with a five-yard pass at the Stanford 42-yard line. The Wisconsin rally was thwarted on the next play when Phillips was intercepted by Usua Amanam at the Stanford 42. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Clippers' winning streak nixed by Nuggets

Danilo Gallinari led six Nuggets players in double figures with 17 points and Denver stopped the Los Angeles Clippers' franchise-record 17-game winning streak with a 92-78 victory on Tuesday night.

Kenneth Faried added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Nuggets, who won their eighth in a row at home.

The Clippers, whose point total was two above their season low, were hurt by poor shooting from three-point range (5 of 29, 17.2 per cent) and the free-throw line (13 of 29, 44.8 per cent). They were led by Blake Griffin and Eric Bledsoe, who had 12 points apiece. Andre Miller, starting in place of point guard Ty Lawson, had 12 points and 12 assists for the Nuggets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denver forward Kenneth Faried fouls Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul during Tuesday's game at the Pepsi Center in Denver. JACK DEMPSEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	21	8	.724	—
New York	21	10	.677	1
Atlanta	20	10	.667	1 1/2
Indiana	18	13	.581	4
Milwaukee	16	13	.552	5
Chicago	16	13	.552	5
Brooklyn	16	15	.516	6
Boston	14	16	.467	7 1/2
Philadelphia	14	17	.452	8
Orlando	12	19	.387	10
Toronto	**11**	**20**	**.355**	**11**
Detroit	12	22	.353	11 1/2
Charlotte	8	23	.258	14
Cleveland	7	25	.219	15 1/2
Washington	4	25	.138	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	24	6	.800	—
L.A. Clippers	25	7	.781	—
San Antonio	25	8	.758	1/2
Memphis	19	9	.679	4
Golden State	21	10	.677	3 1/2
Houston	17	14	.548	7 1/2
Denver	18	15	.545	7 1/2
Portland	16	14	.533	8
Minnesota	14	13	.519	8 1/2
L.A. Lakers	15	15	.500	9
Utah	15	17	.469	10
Dallas	13	19	.406	12
Sacramento	11	20	.355	13 1/2
Phoenix	11	21	.344	14
New Orleans	7	24	.226	17 1/2

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Tuesday's results
Dallas 103 Washington 94
Portland 105 New York 100
Detroit 103 Sacramento 97
Atlanta 95 New Orleans 86
Denver 92 L.A. Clippers 78
Philadelphia at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Indiana 88 Memphis 83
Charlotte 91 Chicago 81
Miami 112 Orlando 110 OT
Houston 123 Atlanta 104
San Antonio 104 Brooklyn 73
Oklahoma City 114 Phoenix 96
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Portland at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Washington at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's games
San Antonio at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Denver, 9 p.m.
Friday's games
Sacramento at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Washington, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Boston, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.
Portland at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Houston at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

HOCKEY

SPENGLER CUP

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
Canada 7 Davos 2

SEMIFINALS
Canada 5 Fribourg 1
Davos 5 Vitkovice 4

QUARTER-FINALS
Davos 7 Ufa 5
Fribourg 5 Mannheim 2

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Portland	31	18	11	1	1	94	94	38
Worcester	31	17	11	1	2	86	89	37
Providence	29	16	11	0	2	74	80	34
Manchester	33	14	15	2	2	88	88	32
St. John's	34	15	18	0	1	82	99	31

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	30	17	8	2	3	99	70	39
Bridgeport	32	17	12	1	2	101	99	37
Albany	29	11	11	1	6	69	77	29
Adirondack	31	13	16	1	1	77	92	28
Connecticut	32	13	17	2	0	89	107	28

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	32	20	7	2	3	115	88	45
Binghamton	29	19	7	1	2	96	73	41
Hershey	32	16	14	1	1	85	80	34
W-B/Scranton	31	14	14	2	1	79	85	31
Norfolk	30	14	15	1	0	79	90	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Toronto	31	19	9	1	2	104	81	41
Abbotsford	32	16	9	3	4	75	68	39
Rochester	31	16	12	2	1	105	99	35
Lake Erie	33	16	14	2	1	106	107	35
Hamilton	31	11	17	1	2	69	99	25

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	30	18	10	1	1	92	80	38
Rockford	33	17	14	1	1	103	97	36
Milwaukee	31	15	13	2	1	83	89	33
Chicago	29	14	11	3	1	74	81	32
Peoria	32	14	14	2	2	77	99	32

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	33	18	11	1	3	101	91	40
Houston	32	17	10	2	3	99	91	39
Oklahoma City	32	17	11	1	3	107	95	38
Texas	32	16	11	3	2	81	86	37
San Antonio	34	13	17	0	4	86	101	30

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.
Tuesday's results
Houston 4 Oklahoma City 2
Monday's results
Bridgeport 4 Adirondack 3 (SO)
Rochester 2 Hamilton 0
Syracuse 2 W-B/Scranton 1
Portland 4 Connecticut 3
Grand Rapids 3 Rockford 1
Binghamton 4 St. John's 2
Worcester 3 Manchester 2
Oklahoma City 5 Texas 2
Peoria 2 Abbotsford 1 (SO)
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Hamilton at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Providence at Portland, 7 p.m.
Thursday's games
Charlotte at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

IIHF 2013 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

At Ufa, Russia

GROUP A

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Sweden	4	3	1	0	0	19	8	11
Czech Republic	4	2	1	0	1	12	10	8
Switzerland	4	1	0	3	0	16	14	6
Finland	4	1	1	0	2	15	15	5
Latvia	4	0	0	0	4	6	21	0

GROUP B

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Canada	**4**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**21**	**8**	**12**
Russia	4	2	1	0	1	13	7	8
U.S.	4	2	0	0	2	19	7	6
Slovakia	4	0	1	1	2	10	19	3
Germany	4	0	0	1	3	4	26	1

Note: Three points awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime/shootout win and one for an overtime/shootout loss, which is registered in the respective OTW or OTL columns.
Monday's results
Canada 4 Russia 1
Czech Republic 4 Switzerland 3 (OT)
Sweden 7 Finland 4
U.S. 9 Slovakia 3
END OF PRELIMINARY ROUND
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
QUARTER-FINALS
Czech Republic vs. U.S., 4 a.m.
Russia vs. Switzerland, 8 a.m.
RELEGATION BRACKET
Finland vs. Germany, 6 a.m.
Thursday's games
SEMIFINALS
Canada vs. Czech Republic/ U.S. winner, 4 or 8 a.m.
Sweden vs. Russia/Switzerland winner, 4 or 8 a.m.
RELEGATION BRACKET
Slovakia vs. Latvia, 6 a.m.
Friday's games
Fifth Place
Quarter-finals losers, 8 a.m.
RELEGATION BRACKET
Latvia vs. Germany, 4 a.m.
Finland vs. Slovakia, 8 a.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	P
Nugent-Hopkins, Cda	**3**	**8**	**11**
Galchenyuk, U.S.	2	5	7
Huberdeau, Cda	**2**	**5**	**7**
Scheifele, Cda	**4**	**2**	**6**
Strome, Cda	**4**	**2**	**6**
Arvidsson, Swe	4	1	5
Granlund, Fin	4	1	5
Collberg, Swe	3	2	5
Andrighetto, Sui	2	3	5
Arima, Fin	2	3	5
Dano, Svk	2	3	5
Molin, Swe	2	3	5
Jaskin, Cze	2	3	5
Martschini, Sui	1	4	5
Rakell, Swe	0	5	5
Trouba, U.S.	4	0	4
Kucherov, Rus	3	1	4
Kunzle, Sui	3	1	4
Matis, Svk	3	1	4
Teravainen, Fin	3	1	4
Bertaggia, Sui	2	2	4
Drouin, Cda	**2**	**2**	**4**
F.Forsberg, Swe	2	2	4
Ristolainen, Fin	2	2	4
Simion, Sui	2	2	4
Yakupov, Rus	1	3	4
Richard, Sui	0	4	4
Sidlik, Cze	0	4	4
Vikstrand, Swe	0	4	4
Kosov, Rus	3	0	3
Yarullin, Rus	3	0	3
V.Rask, Swe	2	1	3

CANADA 4, RUSSIA 1

At Ufa, Russia
First Period
1. Canada, Hamilton 1 (Nugent-Hopkins) 14:04 (pp)
2. Canada, Scheifele 4 (Nugent-Hopkins, Huberdeau) 15:58 (pp)
3. Russia, Kucherov 3, 17:36.
Penalties —Nichushkin Rus (checking from behind major, game misconduct) 11:44.
Second Period
4. Canada, Drouin 2 (Nugent-Hopkins) 6:31.
Penalties —MacKinnon Cda (boarding) 4:15, Mironov Rus (high-sticking) 8:34, MacKinnon Cda (high-sticking) 13:04, Zharkov Rus (tripping) 18:45.
Third Period
5. Canada, Huberdeau 2, 19:32 (en)
Missed penalty shot —Tkachov Rus, 19:41.
Penalty —Murphy Cda (hooking) 19:41.
Shots on goal

Russia	**10**	**8**	**4**	**—22**
Canada	**23**	**15**	**10**	**—48**

Goal —Russia: Makarov (L,1-1): Canada: Subban (W,4-0).
Power plays (goals-chances) —Russia: 0-3; Canada: 2-2.
Referees —Harry Dumas (U.S.), Mikael Sjoqvist (Sweden). **Linesmen** —Tommy George (U.S.), Peter Stano (Slovakia).
Attendance —7,988 (8,250) at Ufa, Russia.

IIHF WORLD UNDER-17 CHALLENGE

At Drummondville and Victoriaville, Que.

GROUP A

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Sweden	4	4	0	0	0	24	10	12
Russia	3	1	0	1	1	17	17	4
Finland	3	1	0	1	1	13	16	4
Pacific	3	0	2	0	1	16	17	3
Western Cda	3	0	0	0	3	6	16	0

GROUP B

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pt
U.S.	3	2	1	0	0	17	9	8
Ontario	3	2	0	1	0	28	7	7
Quebec	3	2	0	0	1	9	9	6
Atlantic Cda	4	1	0	0	3	10	23	3
Slovakia	3	0	0	0	3	3	19	0

Note: Three points for a regulation win, two for an overtime win and one for an overtime loss.
Tuesday's results
At Drummondville, Que.
Ontario 11 Atlantic Canada 1
Quebec 3 Slovakia 2
At Victoriaville, Que.
Sweden 7 Russia 4
Pacific 5 Finland 4 (SO)
Monday's results
At Drummondville, Que.
Finland 6 Western Canada 4
Sweden 6 Pacific 3
At Victoriaville, Que.
Atlantic Canada 4 Slovakia 1
U.S. 5 Quebec 1
Sunday's results
At Drummondville, Que.
Russia 6 Western Canada 2
Sweden 7 Finland 3
At Victoriaville, Que.
Ontario 12 Slovakia 0
U.S. 6 Atlantic Canada 3
Wednesday's games— All Times Eastern
At Drummondville, Que.
Slovakia vs. U.S., 1:30 p.m.
Quebec vs. Ontario, 7:30 p.m.
At Victoriaville, Que.
Russia vs. Finland, 1:30 p.m.
Western Canada vs. Pacific, 7:30 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	4	0	.750	557	331
Miami	7	9	0	.438	288	317
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	344	435
N.Y. Jets	6	10	0	.375	281	375

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	12	4	0	.750	416	331
x-Indianapolis	11	5	0	.688	357	387
Tennessee	6	10	0	.375	330	471
Jacksonville	2	14	0	.125	255	444

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Baltimore	10	6	0	.625	398	344
x-Cincinnati	10	6	0	.625	391	320
Pittsburgh	8	8	0	.500	336	314
Cleveland	5	11	0	.313	302	368

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	13	3	0	.813	481	289
San Diego	7	9	0	.438	350	350
Oakland	4	12	0	.250	290	443
Kansas City	2	14	0	.125	211	425

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Washington	10	6	0	.625	436	388
N.Y. Giants	9	7	0	.563	429	344
Dallas	8	8	0	.500	376	400
Philadelphia	4	12	0	.250	280	444

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Atlanta	13	3	0	.813	419	299
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	357	363
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	461	454
Tampa Bay	7	9	0	.438	389	394

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	11	5	0	.688	433	336
x-Minnesota	10	6	0	.625	379	348
Chicago	10	6	0	.625	375	277
Detroit	4	12	0	.250	372	437

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	11	4	1	.719	397	273
x-Seattle	11	5	0	.688	412	245
St. Louis	7	8	1	.469	299	348
Arizona	5	11	0	.313	250	357

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 17
Sunday's games
Buffalo 28 N.Y. Jets 9
Pittsburgh 24 Cleveland 10
Cincinnati 23 Baltimore 17
Tennessee 38 Jacksonville 20
Indianapolis 28 Houston 16
N.Y. Giants 42 Philadelphia 7
Chicago 26 Detroit 24
Tampa Bay 22 Atlanta 17
Carolina 44 New Orleans 38
New England 28 Miami 0
San Diego 24 Oakland 21
Denver 38 Kansas City 3
Minnesota 37 Green Bay 34
San Francisco 27 Arizona 13
Seattle 20 St. Louis 13
Washington 28 Dallas 18

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS
Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
Cincinnati at Houston, 4:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 8 p.m.
Sunday's games
Indianapolis at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 4:30 p.m.

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
Saturday, Jan. 12
Baltimore, Indianapolis or Cincinnati at Denver, 4:30 p.m.
Washington, Seattle or Green Bay at San Francisco, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 13
Washington, Seattle or Minnesota at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Baltimore, Indianapolis or Houston at New England, 4:30 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP

BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL
At Brisbane, Australia
Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, def. Igor Kunitsyn, Russia, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.
David Goffin, Belgium, def. Matthew Ebden, Australia, 6-2, 6-2.
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Brian Baker, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (10-8).
Tommy Robredo, Spain, def. Ryan Harrison, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

WTA

BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL
At Brisbane, Australia
Serena Williams (3), United States, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-2, 6-2.
Ksenia Pervak, Kazakhstan, def. Urszula Radwanska, Poland, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

ATP

QATAR EXXONMOBIL OPEN
At Doha, Qatar
Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4.
Mikhail Youzhny (4), Russia, def. Benjamin Becker, Germany, 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1.
Daniel Brands, Germany, def. Jeremy Chardy (5), France, 6-4, 6-4.
Mohamed Safwat, Egypt, def. Jabor Mohammed Ali Mutawa, Qatar, 6-0, 6-0.
Tobias Kamke, Germany, def. Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo, Spain, 6-1, 6-2.
David Ferrer (1), Spain, def. Dustin Brown, Germany, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.
Richard Gasquet (2), France, def. Jan Hernych, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4.
Gael Monfils, France, def. Mousa Shanan Zayed, Qatar, 6-0, 6-3.
Lukasz Kubot, Poland, def. Feliciano Lopez (7), Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, def. Pablo Andujar (8), Spain, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2).

Read metro your money every Tuesday for financial tips, trends and advice.
Only in Metro. News worth sharing.

Revving up some auto nostalgia

Danny Koker, the restomodding maestro on Pawn Stars' speed dial, has revved the engine on a spinoff series. On History's Counting Cars (premieres tonight 9 p.m. ET/PT), The Count hunts down classic wheels, fixes 'em up and then either flips them or adds the finished beauties to his personal collection. We sought Koker's counsel on some of the sweetest rides to grace the small and big screen.

MIKE DOJC
drive@metronews.ca

Q & A. Danny The Count Koker weighs in

Danny Koker
HANDOUT

When Rick and the gang at Pawn Stars need advice on anything with wheels and an engine, they call Danny The Count Koker of Las Vegas' Count Kustoms. On Counting Cars, his spinoff series on History, Koker trolls the streets of Nevada for sweet rides to fix up and then flip, but if he grows too attached they find their way into his expansive personal collection.

You have any tips for first time restorers looking for a project?
Don't get in over your head and pick something that you personally love because you're going to get frustrated and want to throw in the towel somewhere along the line. That's why you gotta pick something that you connect with so you'll stick with the project and see it through to the end. If it's a first time project, pick something simple.

What's your success rate using your bold tactics?
Lots of times when we knock on a door or pull somebody over, or find something in a parking lot, sure I get, "No". It's rare to find somebody to say, "OK, I'll sell you my car." I get the no all the time. But on the rare occasion, you get someone in the right frame of mind and mood. MIKE DOJC

1968 Mustang GT 390 Fastback, Bullitt

You can't picture this car without Steve McQueen behind the wheel. The image of the muted highland green muscle car — with deleted emblems and a blacked out tail panel — burning up the hilly streets of San Francisco in hot pursuit of a jet black Dodge Charger has seared itself into the consciousness of cinephiles and auto enthusiasts alike.

Restoration challenge: Rust is a common issue and you'll likely have to start with a real beater. "Everybody loves to hot rod old mustangs. Lots of them have been crashed on drag strips and roadrace courses, or somebody's teenage kid has wrapped one around a tree. Good examples are getting hard to find, so you're having to settle," explains Koker, who puts $22,000 into a real hunk of junk and transforms it into a beautiful Bullitt tribute on the debut episode.

Price: $50 to 60k depending on options.

1969 Dodge Charger, Dukes of Hazzard

The General Lee didn't just give Boss Hogg's flunkies the slip, Chrysler's aerodynamic wild child was designed to lap the competition. Of course, no car could land those ridiculous frame-buckling jumps and drive away unscathed. Nearly 300 Chargers were wrecked over the run of the television series from 1979-1985. "These were really awesome cars with huge engines stuffed into them. You could get a 440 with a six pack (six carburetors), or you could get a hemi. The car was a drag race car right off the showroom floor," says Koker.

Restoration Challenge: While the parts are out there for old Mopars, they didn't produce as many as other muscle cars from the same period, so they're much more expensive.

Price: You can build one for $30 to 40k.

1961 Ferrari 250 GT California Spyder, Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Car crazed teens drooled on their popcorn over this candy red V12 five-speed aluminum-bodied dream machine when Matthew Broderick took this "so choice" beauty for a spin. "Ironically, the one in the movie was a replica," explains Koker. "(They used) a fiberglass-bodied car on a late model Mustang chassis with a small block Ford 302 motor. To use a real '61 Spyder would've been insane."

Restoration Challenge: Finding original parts would be almost impossible. But if you have deep pockets, you could go to Italy and have Ferrari re-manufacture whatever you need.

Price: In 2008, a '61 once owned by the late James Coburn sold for $10.9 million. The actual car from the film sold for a mere fraction of that in 2010, fetching $122,000 in a Bonhams auction, practically double the London auction house's estimate of $45 to 65k.

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Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Small and strong

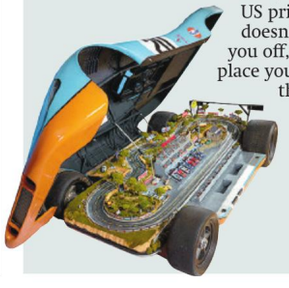
Traditional bike racks can be cumbersome, however, if your car has a hatchback or liftgate — such as a wagon, minivan or sport utility vehicle would have — the Hornet by Seasucker offers one of the simplest ways to transport your two-wheeler. The product consists of a pair of vacuum-style suction cups that you attach to the vehicle's rear window. Special mounting brackets on each cup secure the bicycle by the handlebars. Each cup has a pull-strength rating of 55 kilograms, but for extra safety the system comes with a strap that connects the bike to the hatch or liftgate frame. The entire kit stores in a special pouch when not in use and could possibly be stowed away in the glove compartment. The Hornet sells for $185 US. seasucker.com.

Pampered life

There are people who can afford to give their vehicles the very best of care and attention. For these well-heeled types, Mitchell and King of Scotland provides a highly specialized line of car-care products. The company bills itself as "the most unique and exclusive car wax artisans in the world" and based on their prices, there's no reason to doubt them. For example, the company's SPA bespoke car shampoo consists of the most exotic and rarest of waxes that can be blended to whatever scent the purchaser wishes to have infused into the product. Each order of custom-make SPA shampoo is contained in a six-ounce crystal decanter that can be engraved to order and can also be had with a brass plaque for special gift giving. SPA is priced at about $240 US. mitchellandking.com.

Slot car set of all time

Remember those racing sets you and your friends used to play with as kids? Well this decidedly adult version is nothing like those toys. Called the Porsche 917 Le Mans Raceway, the slot car layout is patterned after the actual Le Mans track located in France, complete with race cars, grandstand and other authentic-looking stuff. The 1:32-scale set is contained inside a full-scale replica of the classic Porsche that conquered the 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance back in the early 1970s. The 917 was also featured in actor Steve McQueen's 1971 movie LeMans. If the $125,000 US price tag doesn't scare you off, you can place your order through hammacher.com.



No, you don't have it all

Mustang owners/lovers often display their affection for their favourite car by wearing T-shirts, jackets or ball caps that show the Mustang brand. Now they can wear Ford Mustang leather driving shoes. Officially licensed from Ford, these racing-style kicks feature leather suede uppers with the classic Mustang pony logo embedded on each side. The vulcanized rubber sole comes with special outer protection where needed for heel-and-toe shifting, while the innersole can be replaced with most orthopedic insole types. The Mustang shoe can be ordered in red, black, blue or gold, in full and half sizes 7 to 13 and in medium to EEE widths, for $90 US a pair from worldclassmotoring.com.

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†Coverage begins from the original new retail sale date and covers 7-years/140,000-kilometres, whichever comes first. ‡0.9% APR only for well qualified buyers; not all buyers will qualify. Amount of down payment and other factors may affect qualification. 0.9% APR available on all models and all qualifying model years (the 5 model years immediately preceding the date of this advertisement, or newer) for up to 24-month terms. Based on a representative example of $15,000 financed at 0.9% over 24 months equals monthly payments of $630.88 with $0 down payment, cost of borrowing is $141.03 with a total obligation of $15,141.03. Licence, insurance, taxes, down payment, and, where applicable, PPSA and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at time of purchase. Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offer subject to change without notice. Visit your participating dealer for complete details.

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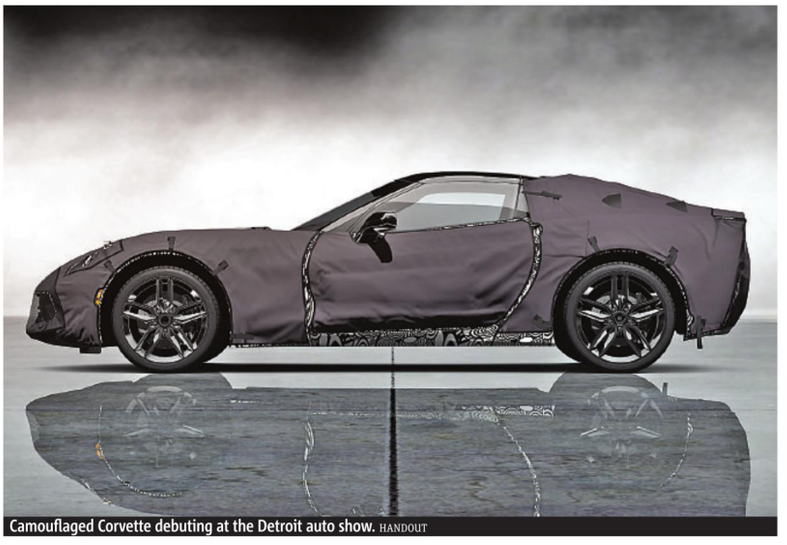


Camouflaged Corvette debuting at the Detroit auto show. HANDOUT

Hot cars and hot trends for 2013

Sexy ride! A rundown of the year's most exciting vehicles and their mouth-watering features

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Vroom

The one luxury-performance car I'm most looking forward to next year is the 2013 Jaguar F-Type, the first full-on two-seat sports car from Jaguar in more than 50 years

Mike Goetz

It's that time again when we must take stock of last year and look forward to the next. Or climb into a big, woolen sock and hibernate until May. Someone poked me with a stick, so I'm up-and-Adam and ready to pursue the former option.

2012 was a year when the manufacturers really focused on giving us increased fuel economy in every vehicle category, and not just the smaller ones.

This is a trend we'll certainly see continue in 2013 and beyond. Exhibit A: The all-new and completely redesigned Corvette debuting at this month's Detroit auto show. It promises to go from zero to 60 m.p.h. in under four seconds and deliver 26 m.p.g. (9 L/100 km) fuel efficiency on the highway.

The 'Vette is also part of another trend — that high-end performance and luxury vehicles aren't going anywhere. They seem indifferent to socio-economic times that might suggest buyers lean toward more austere and/or greener choices. Luxury brands in Canada actually did better (proportionally) in the 2012 sales year than many mainstream brands.

BMW has an interesting strategy rolling out in 2013 to cope with this duality in the marketplace. It will introduce the "I" sub-brand, to distinguish the automaker's most out-there green vehicles. The i3, a five-door EV, will launch at the end of 2013, while the i8 hybrid sports car will follow in early 2014.

All luxury brands helped themselves recently by dipping into smaller and less-expensive segments. Last year, we saw Buick Encore and BMW X1 work this angle, and next year Audi Q3 will do its thing in this compact-luxury segment. Get ready to see more of these compact, entry-level luxury crossovers.

But the one luxury-performance car I'm most looking forward to next year is the 2013 Jaguar F-Type, the first full-on two-seat sports car from Jaguar in more than 50 years.

Small is getting more fun, with the recent arrivals of such over-achievers as Ford Focus ST, Fiat 500 Abarth and Mini Roadster. Fun will go even smaller, when the 2014 Ford Fiesta ST arrives, with its near-200 hp Ecoboost engine and 6-speed manual shifter.

This influx of hot, small and bothered vehicles is also part of another, larger trend — North American buyers are becoming more simpatico with our European counterparts. As such, we're seeing less differentiation between product offerings between the markets and that's a good thing. Two interesting Euro-born vehicles to watch for next year are the four-door Fiat 500L and Ford's new minivan, the Transit Connect.

Of course we'll see more full-on EVs come on stream in 2013, such as Chevrolet Spark EV, smart ForTwo Electric, Honda Fit EV, and the fore-mentioned BMW i3. Will they help make EV mainstream? Probably not in 2013, but if they keep coming and do their stuff, prime time can't be too far away.

And how about mainstream diesel? The all-new 2014 Mazda6 is available with a 2.2-litre diesel engine. As the first (non-VW) mainstream sedan with a diesel, it will be interesting to watch how it will be embraced in 2013.

Finally, we must also pay attention to the continuing "smart phoning" of vehicles. Just this week, Hyundai announced it was working on a smart phone app utilizing NFC technology that would allow you to do a host of things to your vehicle, not the least of which would be unlocking it and starting it. Yes, starting your car with a phone and not a key. Which begs the question, at what point is the smartphone an extension of the car, or the car an extension of the smartphone? I'll leave you now to discuss that, 'cause I'm crawling back into my comfy sock.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have been a bit too generous for your own good of late and, not surprisingly, someone has taken advantage of the situation. Now you must take back what was taken from you, plus a little extra for your trouble.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If there is something new you would like to do, something extravagant and exciting, you must stop dreaming about it and get on with it. The Sun in Capricorn urges you to get busy right now — later is too late.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
What happens over the next two or three days will bring the kind of changes that even you feel happy about. You should have realized by now that not all change is bad. Some change is exciting and even inspiring.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You are embarking on one of the best times for one-to-one relationships, both personal and professional. Others will go out of their way to help you over the next 24 hours. Go out of your way to enjoy it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Focus on quality work today. You may be tempted to take on more duties and responsibilities but that will inevitably lead to a loss of value. The fewer things you do, the better you will do them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This may be a time of great activity but don't overdo it. Set your sights high today but don't aim for too many things all at the same time. No matter how fit you feel you will burn yourself out.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will have to make decisions for other people today. It may worry you that their welfare is in your hands but fate has put you in this position for a reason, so be confident you will make a success of it.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
You will face a number of challenges over the next few days and you cannot run away from them. That's good. Your life is in a bit of a rut at the moment and you need something to get you out of it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If someone asks you to take on more work today you must be strong-minded enough to say no. Whatever you might think you owe other people, you owe more to yourself — and nothing matters more than your health.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There is nothing you cannot achieve if you want it enough. Rarely have the omens been this good, so stop worrying about what the neighbors might think and start living the kind of life you dream of.

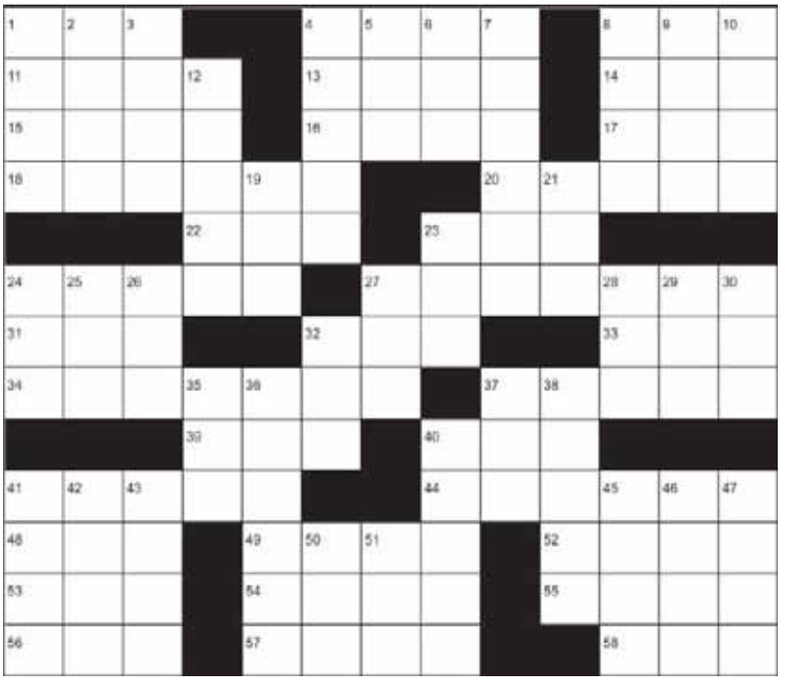
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be tempted to start something new today but the planets indicate it would be wiser, and easier, to focus your energies on finishing what you have already started. Attitude is everything. Think of it as fun.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The planets warn you have only a limited grasp of what is going on at the moment and what others tell you today is needed to complete the picture. Thank them for pointing out what you have missed.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

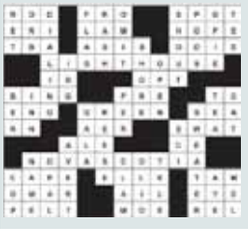
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Light-feather link (2 words)
4. College major
8. Captain's journal
11. Lose one's cool
13. Operatic solo
14. "Cold Mountain" heroine
15. The Munsters' bat
16. Auction word
17. Term of respect
18. Defense mechanism
20. Not now
22. Happy Days hangout
23. Chest muscle, for short
24. Soup server
27. Frontier figure
31. Disney deer
32. – – standstill (2 words)
33. Wide shoe width
34. Be lenient with
37. Aroma
39. Lay eyes on
40. Exclude
41. Book contents
44. Newspaper employee
48. Slippery fish
49. Variety
52. Scotch partner
53. Before, of yore
54. Sign on a door
55. Nudge
56. Fish eggs
57. Snoopy
58. Hospital units (abbr.)

Down
1. Extremely dry
2. Stuffing herb
3. Before long
4. Sends a letter
5. Gallery display
6. Even score
7. Small village
8. Bringing up the rear
9. Cartoon dog
10. Actress Teri of "Tootsie"
12. Courtroom drama
19. Pub offering
21. Pretend
23. Soup vegetable
24. Flower garland
25. Abby's twin sister
26. Family man
27. Sault — Marie
28. Jeans brand
29. Poetic time of day
30. Soak as flax
32. Epoch
35. Benefit
36. Subside
37. Down in the dumps
38. Crunchy
40. Veronica's friend
41. Look closely
42. Flying (prefix)
43. High spirits
45. Ripped
46. Unpleasant smell
47. X-ray dosages
50. Losing tic-tac-toe row
51. Sue Grafton novel: – – for Ricochet (letter and word)

Dec. 21's Crossword



What's online

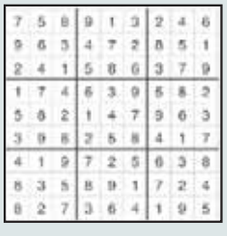
See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

4			3		9			
5	9						4	8
	6			4		9		
	3		1	2				4
		2				7		
1				8	7		5	
		4		1			6	
9	1						2	3
			2		6			7

Dec. 21's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 3° MIN: -6°	MAX: 3° MIN: -3°	MAX: 2° MIN: -3°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

ANDREW SCHULTZ
METEOROLOGIST
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta".
WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

GOD'S PROMISE FOR ME!
I live in the shelter of the Most High and find rest in the Almighty. He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him.
(Psalm 91:1-2)
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